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CIA Plotters Sentenced in Cuba; Castro Bid Saves Their Lives

CPYRGHT

A CIA PLOT for the assassination of Premier Fidel Castro came to an end in La Cabana fortress in Havana last Wednesday with the sentencing of the plotters.

This was the third plot uncovered against Castro's life. The two previous attempts occurred in 1961.

The present plotters were arrested Feb. 26.

Two of them were sentenced to 25 years in prison. They were Dr. Rolando Cubela Secades, a physician and Roman Guin Diaz. Cubela and Guin formerly held the rank of major, the highest in the Cuban army.

Guin admitted in court that he had been a CIA agent since September, 1963.

Two plotters were sentenced to 20 years. They were Jose Gonzales Gallarretta and Alberto Blanco Romariz.

Juan Alsina Navarro was sentenced to 10 years.

All five sentenced had confessed their guilt.

Guillermo Cunill Alvarez and Angel Herrero Veliz were released.

They had been accused of

complicity in procuring a get-away launch and other peripheral activities but denied knowledge of the plot.

The government charged that the plot called for Cubela to shoot Castro with a high-powered rifle.

U.S. forces and mercenaries from Latin American countries were to land in Cuba within 48 hours after Castro's death.

Following the overthrow of the Cuban government, the top posts in the government would be distributed among the participants in the plot, including Manuel Artime, exiled counter-revolutionary.

Dr. Cubela visited Europe in 1964 to attend a student conference, the trial disclosed. In Paris he met Luis Enrique Traenco and Carlos Tepedino, who worked for the FBI.

Odon Alvarez de la Campa, counselor in the Cuban embassy in Madrid, who turned traitor in March, 1965, and Jose Luis Gonzalez Gallarreta, second secretary in the embassy, made contact with two CIA agents in Madrid, Hernan Enrques and Agustin Alvarez Machado.

Alvarez de la Campa and Gal-

larretta received \$100,000 from James A. Noel of the U.S. Embassy in Madrid to finance the assassination plot.

Gallarretta, Alberto Blanco Romariz, and Jorge Robreno arranged the meetings in Madrid between Cubela and Artime in February, 1965, at which the plot was completed.

Originally the prosecutor, Major Jorge Segueira, had asked death for four of the accused and sentences of 32 years for the three others.

In summing up, however, the prosecutor changed his demand, following receipt of a letter from Castro asking that the death penalty not be imposed.

The letter said, "In this case, despite its extreme gravity, it is not necessary to ask for the most severe sanctions."

"We must be hard without vacillation when needed, but never unnecessarily. The revolutionary sanction is an art of defense. The revolution is strong."

It added that there were indeed aggravating circumstances but that the aim of the revolution was not to eliminate men but to eliminate the vices that gave rise to crimes.